

A NEW SPECIES OF *CERASTIUM* (CARYOPHYLLACEAE) FROM OAXACA, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

Cerastium hintoniorum B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.*, is described and illustrated. It is known only from Distr. Miahuatlán, Oaxaca, where it occurs in pine-alder forests at 3050 m on Cerro Quiexobra. Among North American species it is most closely related to *C. guatemalense*, differing from the latter in a number of characters, most notably leaf vestiture and fruit size.

KEY WORDS: Caryophyllaceae, *Cerastium*, México, Oaxaca, systematics

Exploration of remote, relatively poorly collected areas of México has yielded the following novelty.

CERASTIUM HINTONIORUM B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.* Figure 1. TYPE: MEXICO. Oaxaca: Distr. Miahuatlán, Quiexobra, 3045 m, "pine and alder forests," *G.B. Hinton et al. 26114* (HOLOTYPE: TEX).

Similis *C. guatemalensi* Standley, sed foliis sparsim appressis, ubique pilosis (vice foliorum glandulosorum - pilosorum infra), petalis parvioribus, ca. 5 mm longis (vice 6-7 mm longis), et capsulis multum majoribus 12-16 mm longis (vice "7.8-11.8" longis [Good 1984]).

Perennial (?) sparsely branched herbs 15-30 cm high. Midstems pilose with mostly eglandular hairs 0.5-1.0 mm long, upwards the vestiture becoming increasingly glandular-pilose. Leaves more or less similar in shape throughout, but gradually reduced upwards, the larger (lower) leaves, mostly 40-50 mm long, 5-6 mm wide, sparsely pilose on both surfaces with appressed hairs, not at all glandular-pilose. Cymes 8-12 flowered, the bracts not scarious-margined. Pedicels 10-35 mm long, the lower ones longer, moderately pilose like the upper stems, arcuate near the apices when in fruit. Sepals ovate-lanceolate, acute, ca. 5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the margins scarious along the upper half, sparsely glandular-pilose on the outer faces.

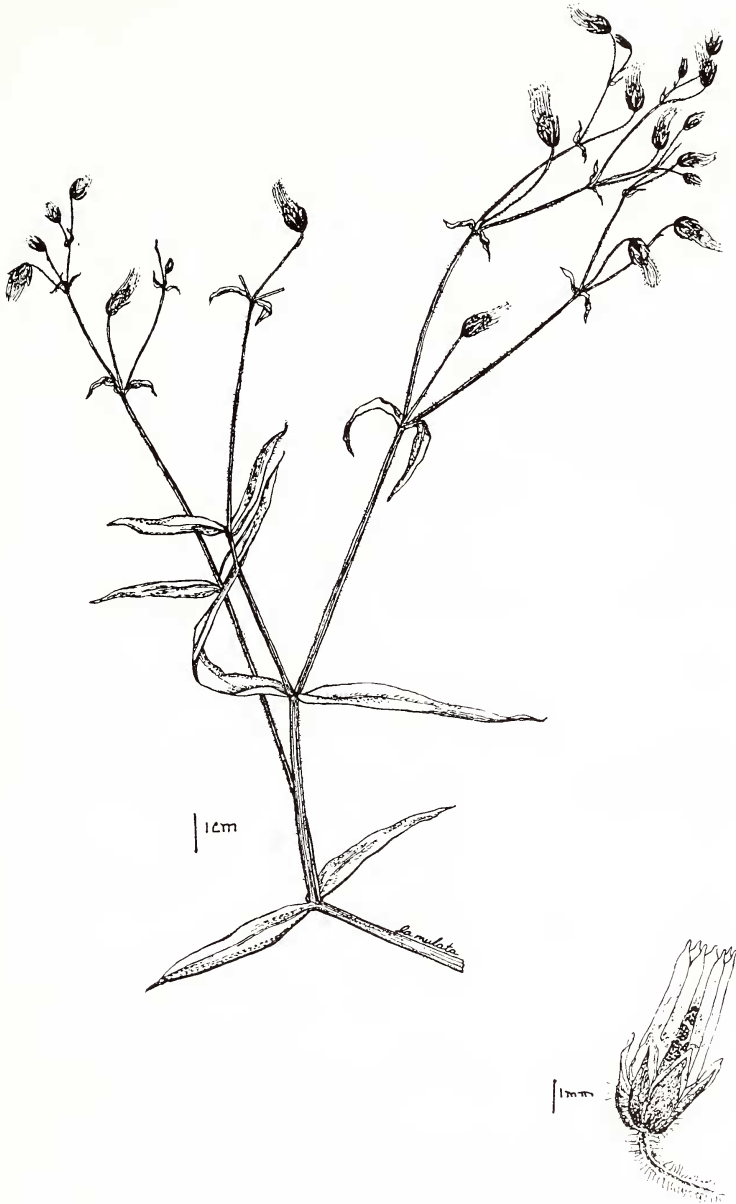


Figure 1. *Cerastium hintoniiorum*, from holotype.

Petals white, ca. 5 mm long, bifid ca. 1/4 their length. Filaments ca. 3.2 mm long; anthers ca. 0.2 mm long. Capsules mostly 12-15 mm long, ca. 3.5 mm across, curved, the lobes 10, erect, ca. 0.8 mm long. Seeds ovoid, light brown, ca. 1.0 mm long, 0.9 mm wide, rugose throughout with rounded crests, less so laterally.

This novelty is closely related to *Cerastium guatemalense* Standley, and will key to that species in the excellent revisionary treatment of *Cerastium* for México and Central America by Good (1984). It differs from *C. guatemalense* in having eglandular leaves, smaller petals and much larger capsules (mostly 12-16 mm long vs. 7.8-11.8 mm long). In addition, *C. guatemalense* is known only from southwesternmost Chiapas, México (Mpio. de Motozintla de Mendoza), and closely adjacent Guatemala, with an outlier-population in Costa Rica.

It is a pleasure to name the taxon for the Hinton family, superlatives for which I do not have enough.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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LITERATURE CITED

- Good, D.A. 1984. A revision of the Mexican and Central American species of *Cerastium* (Caryophyllaceae). *Rhodora* 86:339-379.